



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN INDIA

Parcham Classes

INTRODUCTION

- World Heritage Sites are important places of cultural or natural heritage - as described in UNESCO World Heritage Convention (an international treaty) - **established in 1972**.
- UNESCO encourages identification, protection and preservation of such heritage sites which are considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.
- India is an active Member State on the World Heritage from **1977**
- 40 World Heritage Sites in India - **32 cultural sites, 7 natural sites** and **1 mixed-criteria** site.
- India has the sixth largest number of sites in the world.
- Italy 58 sites
- China 56 sites
- Germany 51 sites
- Spain 49 sites
- France 49 sites

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES, INDIA (Cultural)

Agra Fort (1983)	Ajanta Caves(1983)
Ellora Caves (1983)	Taj Mahal (1983)
Sun Temple, Konark (1984)	Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984)
Churches and Convents of Goa (1986)	Fatehpur Sikri (1986)
Khajuraho Group of Monuments (1986)	Group of Monuments at Hampi (1986)
Elephanta Caves (1987)	Group of Monuments at Pattadakal (1987)
Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989)	Great Living Chola Temples (1987,2004)
Humayun's Tomb, Delhi (1993)	Qutub Minar and its Monuments, Delhi (1993)
Mountain Railways of India (1999,2005,2008)	Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya(2002)

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES, INDIA (Cultural)

Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003)	Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004)
Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park (2004)	Red Fort Complex (2007)
The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur (2010)	Hill Forts of Rajasthan (2013)
Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen’s Stepwell) at Patan, Gujarat (2014)	Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, Bihar (2016)
The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier (2016)	Historic City of Ahmadabad (2017)
Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai (2018)	Jaipur City, Rajasthan (2019)
Dholavira, Gujarat (2021)	Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana (2021)

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES, INDIA (Natural)

Kaziranga National Park (1985)

Keoladeo National Park (1985)

Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (1985)

Sundarbans National Park (1987)

Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Park (1988,2005)

Western Ghats (2012)

Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (2014)

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES, INDIA (Mixed)

Khangchendzonga National Park (2016)

HIMACHAL PRADESH

- *Located in the Kullu region of Northern Himachal Pradesh.*
- *Part of the Himalayan **Biodiversity Hotspots***
- *Snow leopard, Himalayan brown bear, Himalayan Tahr, musk deer spruces, horse chestnuts and vast alpine meadows*

Great Himalayan National Park
Declared - 2014



UTTARAKHAND

World Network of Biosphere Reserves
Famous for Asiatic Black Bear, Snow Leopard, Brown Bear, Blue Sheep and Himalayan Monal,

Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks
Declared – 1988 & 2005 respectively



CHANDIGARH

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier

Declared – 2016



The **Capitol Complex in Chandigarh**, hosts the legislative assembly for both the states of Haryana and Punjab, High Court and the Secretariat

DELHI



Qutub Minar and its Monuments, 1993

Includes Qutub Minar, Alai Darwaza, Alai Minar, Qubbat-ul-Islam Mosque, Tomb of Iltumish, and Iron Pillar.

Built in 1193 by the first Muslim ruler of Delhi, Qutub-ud-din Aibak.



Humayun's Tomb, 1993

It's a tomb complex consisting of several smaller monuments.

Built by Begum Bega, the first wife of Humayun



Red Fort Complex, 2007

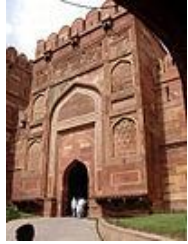
Built by Emperor Shah Jahan when he shifted his capital from Agra to Delhi

Famous for/as: **Shahjahanabad**, Persian, Timuri and Indian Architectural Styles,

Red Sandstone Architecture, **Moti Masjid**



UTTAR PRADESH



Agra Fort, 1983

Includes a number of monuments like Khas Mahal, Sheesh Mahal, Muhamman Burie (an octagonal Tower)



Taj Mahal, 1983

One of Seven Wonders of the World, White Marble Mughal Architecture
Considered “Jewel of Muslim Art in India”.



Fatehpur Sikri, 1986

Consistues: Jama Masjid, **Buland Darwaza** (the most significant door of Asia), Panch Mahal or Jada Baai ka Mahal (considered as the origin place of the Navaratnas -Birbal, Tansen, etc. Interior to the Buland Darwaza lies the Tomb of Salim Chishti.

RAJASTHAN



The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur, 2010

It is an astronomical observatory.

It is a collection of 19 astronomical instruments including the world's largest stone Sundial. All these instruments are man-made.



Jaipur city, 2019

Known as pink city, home to a few other UNESCO World Heritage sites including Amer Fort and Jantar Mantar



Keoladeo National Park , Bharatpur, 1985

Also known as Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary

*Famous for/as Man-Made Wetland Bird Sanctuary, **Siberian Cranes**, Hotspot for Ornithologists.*

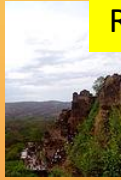
RAJASTHAN

Hill Forts of Rajasthan, 2013

Jaisalmer



Ranthambore



Kumbhalgarh



Chittorgarh



Amer



Gagron



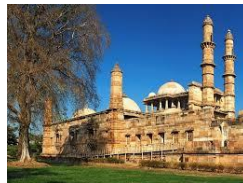
GUJARAT



Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park, 2004

Located in the Panchmahal district

It includes **11 different types of heritage monuments** that are- Mosques, Temples, Tombs, Gateways, Fortresses and walls, Palaces and Pavilion, Helical Wells, Custom house all **belonging to the 16th century**



Rani ki vav (The Queen's Stepwell), 2014

Known for its **Stepped Corridors, Sculptures and Stone Carvings** in the Well. Most of the sculptures in the well are devoted to Lord Vishnu in the form of his ten avatars



Historic City of Ahmedabad, 2017

Walled city on the banks of Sabarmati

The city of Ahmedabad has around 25 ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) protected structures

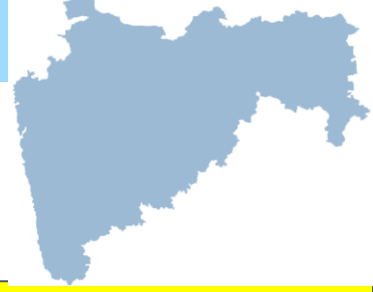


Dholavira: a Harappan City, 2021

The ancient city is sited on the arid island of Khadir in the State of Gujarat.



MAHARASHTRA



Ajanta Caves, 1983

Ajanta Caves: Famous for/as Buddhist **Rock-cut Cave Monuments**, Richly Decorated Paintings similar to **Sigiriya Paintings** of Sri Lanka



Ellora Caves, 1983

Ellora Caves: Famous for/as Buddhist, Jain and Hindu Temples and Monasteries, **Caves Excavated** out of Hills, Rock-cut Architecture.



Elephanta Caves, 1987

Located on an island in Arabian Sea, close to Mumbai.

Famous for their rock-cut sculptures and carvings depicting Shiva as the Creator and the Destroyer of the Universe.



Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, 2004

Famous for/as **Central Railways Headquarter**, Terror Attacks on Mumbai in 2008, Gothic Style (or pointed) Architecture



The Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai, 2018

Collection of 94 buildings, located in the Fort Area of Mumbai. They are the Bombay High Court, Rajabai Clock Tower, Eros Cinema and Convocation Hall, University of Mumbai, etc.

MADHYA PRADESH



Khajuraho Group of Monuments , 1986

Well known for their Nagara style symbolism and **erotic figures and sculptures**. It consists of a total of 85 Temples



Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi, 1989

One of the oldest stone structures in India

Its core was a hemispherical brick structure built over the relics of Buddha



Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka, - 2003

Famous for Rock Paintings within Natural Rock Shelters, **Stone Age Inscriptions**, Sitting Place of Bhima (Mahabharata)

Located at the foothills of the Vindhya Mountains in the Deccan Plateau

BIHAR



Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara at Nalanda, 2016

Was a centre of learning and a Buddhist monastery from 3rd century BCE to the 13th century CE



Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya, 2002

Bodh Gaya is considered to be the holiest pilgrimage spot for the Buddhists.

The holy Bodhi Tree is the site where Siddhartha gained Enlightenment and became Gautam Buddha.



GOA

Churches and Convents of Goa, 1986

- These monuments were influential in spreading forms of Manueline, Mannerist and Baroque art in all the countries of Asia where missions were established.

- Includes - Saint Catherine's Chapel, Church and Convent of Saint Francis of Assisi, Basílica do Bom Jesus, Igreja de São Francisco de Assis, Church of Saint Cajetan and its seminary, Church of Our Lady of the Rosary and Church of Saint Augustine.



ODISHA



Sun Temple, Konârak, 1984

Famous for **Black Pagoda**, Chariot of the Sun, **Kalinga Architecture**, Included in Seven Wonders of India.



The Sun Temple is in the shape of a gigantic chariot with carved stone wheel, pillars and walls and is led by six enormously carved horses.

WEST BENGAL

Sunderbans National Park, 1987

Famous for Royal Bengal Tigers, the Sunderban National Park is a known Tiger reserve and a Biosphere Reserve

It's the world's largest mangrove forest reserve



SIKKIM

SIKKIM



Khangchendzonga(Kangchenjunga) National Park, 2016

Located in the Himalayan Ranges part of North and West Sikkim

Includes the Kanchenjunga Peak, 3rd highest peak in the world

The only mixed World Heritage Site in India



ASSAM



Manas Wildlife Sanctuary, 1985

Famous for/as **Project Tiger Reserve**, Elephant Reserve and Biosphere Reserve, Assam Roofed Turtle, Hispid Hare, Golden Langur and Pygmy Hog.



Kaziranga National Park, 1985

Famous for/as World's 2/3 rd Great **One-Horned Rhinoceroses**
This park lies on the flood plains of the river Brahmaputra and consists mainly of dense grasslands, forests



WESTERN GHATS



Declared in 2012

Sahyadri Sub-Cluster (Maharashtra)

Talakaveri Sub-Cluster (Karnataka)

Kudremukh Sub-Cluster (Karnataka)

Agasthyamalai Sub-Cluster (Kerala)

Periyar Sub-Cluster (Kerala)

Anamalai Sub-Cluster (Kerala)

Nilgiri Sub-Cluster (Tamil Nadu)

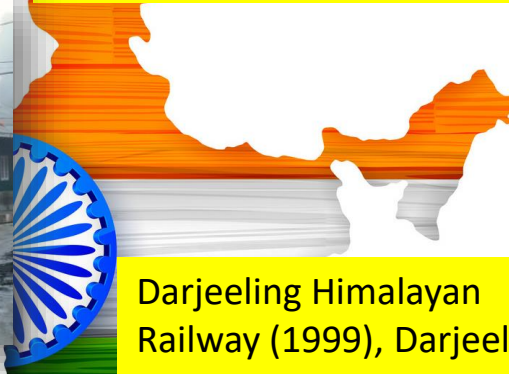
- Famous for/as Among World's Ten **"Hottest Biodiversity Hotspots"**,
- Includes many National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Reserve Forests.

MOUNTAIN RAILWAYS OF INDIA



Nilgiri Mountain Railway
(2005) Ooty, Tamil Nadu

Kalka-Shimla Railway, Himachal Pradesh (2008)



Darjeeling Himalayan
Railway (1999), Darjeeling, West Bengal

KARNATAKA



Group of Monuments at Pattadakal, 1987

Cover a series of nine Hindu temples, as well as a Jain sanctuary in northern Karnataka

It is famous for its **Chalukya style of architecture**





TAMIL NADU



Great Living Chola Temples, 1987

Built by kings of the Chola Empire. The site includes three great 11th- and 12th-century Temples: The **Brihadisvara Temple** at Thanjavur, the **Brihadisvara Temple** at Gangaikonda cholisvaram and the **Airavatesvara Temple** at Darasuram

Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram, 1984

Founded by the Pallava kings

Carved out of rock along the Coromandel coast in the 7th and 8th centuries.

It is known especially for its *rathas* (temples in the form of chariots), *mandapas* (cave sanctuaries), giant open-air reliefs such as the famous 'Descent of the Ganges', and the temple of Rivage, with thousands of sculptures to the glory of Shiva.



Telangana



Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, 2021

Rudreshwara, popularly known as Ramappa Temple, is located in the village of Palampet approximately 200km north-east of Hyderabad, in the State of Telangana.

It is the main Shiva temple in a walled complex built during the Kakatiyan period (1123–1323 CE) under rulers Rudradeva and Recharla Rudra.

6 Proposed UNESCO Heritage Site

- Satpura Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh)
- Ghats of Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh)
- Megalithic Site of Hire Benkal (Karnataka)
- Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra
- Bhedaghat-Lametaghat in Narmada Valley- Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)
- Temples of Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu)